

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Department of Investigations  
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**No. 13-I-689**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**CONSENT ORDER**

**MARK NELSON SINGLETON, D.O.**

*(Certificate No. DO.021177)*

*Respondent*

Predicated on apparently reliable information, an investigation was conducted by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") through its Director of Investigations (the "DOI"), of the practice of Mark Nelson Singleton, D.O. ("Dr. Singleton"), a physician who at all pertinent times was and is licensed in Louisiana and engaged in the practice of family practice.

Dr. Singleton first came to the Board's attention when information was received indicating that Dr. Singleton's privileges at an Indian Healthcare facility in New Mexico had been suspended and eventually revoked due to concerns regarding his failure to meet the standard of care in his treatment of patients. It was subsequently learned that Dr. Singleton had returned to Louisiana and was practicing in Winnfield, Louisiana. Dr. Singleton was asked to obtain an evaluation to document his level of competency in the area of family practice.

Dr. Singleton underwent and successfully completed a competency assessment at a Board approved facility. At the completion of the assessment it was the opinion of the evaluators that Dr. Singleton is capable practicing medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients and made recommendations for directed remediation.

Predicated upon the information outlined above, the DOI determined that reasonable cause exists to pursue administrative proceedings against Dr. Singleton for violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 A (14).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to La. R.S. §37:1285A(14), the Board may suspend, revoke, or impose probation or other restrictions on the license of an individual licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as a result of "[c]ontinuing or recurring medical practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical practice in this state."

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Singleton, without agreeing to the facts as alleged, and without admitting any liability or violation of federal or state law or regulation, or Board rule; and for purposes of this Consent Order only, acknowledges that such information could provide the DOI with a reasonable basis to initiate formal administrative proceedings against his license pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, constituting cause for such action against the physician's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate.

Recognizing his right to written notification of any charges that may be asserted against him as a result of this investigation, as well as the right to administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time he would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence in defense or in mitigation of the charges made and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 et seq., Dr. Singleton, nonetheless, hereby waives his rights to notice, formal adjudication and written decision and, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Furthermore, Dr. Singleton acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 et seq., or to which he otherwise may be afforded by any law to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Singleton also hereby authorizes the DOI to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation, and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Singleton expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the DOI shall be without prejudice to the DOI's authority to proceed with the filing and adjudication of any administrative charges that may subsequently be filed in this matter against him, or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order.

Accordingly, in consideration of the forgoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

**IT IS ORDERED** that the license of Mark Nelson Singleton, D.O., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. DO.021177, be and the same is hereby, placed **ON PROBATION** for a period of **one (1) year** (the "probationary period"); provided, however, that Dr. Singleton's continuing exercise of rights and privileges granted thereby, shall be conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms and conditions and restrictions:

- 1) Board Approval of Medical Practice.** Following the effective date of this Order and for the duration of the probationary period, Dr. Singleton shall provide the Board with information including a complete and accurate description, and such further information as the Board may request, concerning any practice setting in which Dr. Singleton intends to practice medicine. Dr. Singleton shall not engage in the practice of medicine in any practice setting in advance of the Board's specific written approval of such practice setting.

**2) Monitoring of Practice.** Following the effective date of this Order and for the duration of the probationary period, Dr. Singleton's practice shall be supervised by another physician approved in writing by the Board, who shall monitor his practice to determine whether Dr. Singleton is practicing consistently within accepted standards. Dr. Singleton shall authorize and cause such physician, not less frequently than quarterly during the probationary period, to submit to the Board written reports of his or her determination concerning Dr. Singleton's professional and medical competence as derived from such monitoring.

**3) Attendance at Approved Seminar/Comprehensive Review of Family Medicine.** Within one hundred eighty days (180) of issuance of this order, Dr. Singleton shall provide written confirmation that he has attended and successfully completed one or more courses of study, acceptable to and pre-approved in writing by the Board, involving a comprehensive review of family medicine. All courses required by this provision shall be comprehensive in nature and should be of at least fifty (50) credit hours, and shall be acceptable to and pre-approved in writing by the Board or its designee.

**4) Attendance at Approved Seminar/Proper Prescribing.** Within one hundred eighty days (180) of issuance of this Order, Dr. Ward shall provide written confirmation that he has attended and successfully completed one or more courses of study, acceptable to and pre-approved in writing by the Board, in the area of proper prescribing of controlled substance medications. All courses required by this provision shall be comprehensive in nature (greater than 20 credit hours) and shall be acceptable to and pre-approved in writing by the Board or its designee.

**5) Absence from the State/Practice/Effect on Probation.** Should Dr. Singleton at any time during the period of probation ordered herein be absent from the state of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country, or discontinue practicing as a physician, for a period of thirty (30) days or more, he will so advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period ordered herein shall be deemed interrupted and extended for no less than the period of time during which he was not engaged in practice or was absent from the state of Louisiana; however, all terms and conditions may continue to be in effect as ordered or may be modified or altered as needed at the Board's discretion.

**6) Notification.** Dr. Singleton shall provide a complete copy of this Order to each hospital, clinic, facility or other employer or prospective employer at which or for whom he provides services as a physician in this state.

**7) Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Singleton shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers, and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

**8) Probation Monitoring Fee.** Dr. Singleton shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order.

**9) Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms/Personal Appearance.** At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary period imposed herein, Dr. Singleton shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order and he shall contact the Board and arrange for a personal appearance before the Board at its meeting preceding the expiration of his probationary period. The probationary period and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Singleton's compliance with the requirements of this provision.

**10) Effect of Violation/Sanction.** By his subscription hereto, Dr. Singleton acknowledges that his receipt of written notification that the Board has received apparently reliable information which indicates his failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Order in any respect shall, without the need for formal hearing or for providing him with any right to which he may otherwise be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 et seq., or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, constitute his irrevocable consent to the immediate suspension of his license to practice medicine as a physician in this state pending a hearing before the Board and the conclusion of the administrative proceedings by issuance of a final decision following administrative adjudication of such charges.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Order by Dr. Singleton shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Singleton's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

Signed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2014.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

BY: Mark H. Dawson MD  
MARK H. DAWSON, M.D.  
President

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF Winn

I, MARK NELSON SINGLETON, D.O. hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

  
MARK NELSON SINGLETON, D.O.

WITNESSES:

  
Signature

Daniel Ullman  
Printed Name

Hwy 560 Gum Springs  
Address

Winnfield, LA 71483  
City/State/Zip Code

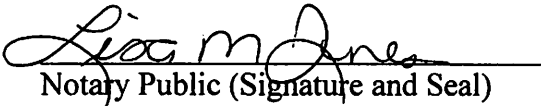
Barbara Spence  
Signature

Barbara Spence  
Printed Name

Hwy 560 Gum Springs  
Address

Winnfield, La 71483  
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

  
Notary Public (Signature and Seal)

Lisa M Jones 068343  
Printed Name/Notary or Bar Number